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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending 31st.Dec.1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Shepton Mallet R.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this report follows the plan of the previous war-time reports, which were, for security reasons, considerably curtailed.

Vital Statistics. Rates only.

Live Birth RATe	...	16.3	per 1,000 of the estimated population.
Death Rate	...	11.7	
Infantile Mortality Rate		52.9	per 1,000 Live Births.

The above statistics are normal and call for no special comment.

The Health services of the area have functioned normally in spite of the prevailing conditions.

Diphtheria prophylaxis. The scheme continues to operate with increasing success. There was only one case of this disease during the year under review. This would give a case rate of about one-tenth of the average for the Country.

Post War Planning. In any considerations for the planning of better sanitary and housing conditions, the first thing which should be regarded is the great need for better sewerage facilities in many of our villages. The water supplies in the villages of Lydford, Pylle and Croscombe are inadequate. It is considered that these matters are far more urgent than the building of extra houses and the improvement of a small percentage of the others, which would better the condition of relatively few of the inhabitants of our district.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

A.H.FINCH,

12th June, 1943. Medical Officer of Health